

March 31, 2022

My name is Vicki Gallon-Clark, the Executive Director of the Blue Hills Civic Association and a long-time resident of Hartford, CT.

I support House Bill No. 480 to support the establishment and certification of Community Development Corporations in the State for the following reasons.

When this Bill is enacted, it will give a community such as North Hartford an opportunity to create a CDC where none currently exists. In doing so, it will create opportunities for sustainable, community involved initiatives that can bring decision making to the local level, while creating partnerships with the corporate and private sectors.

It will also create opportunities for comprehensive revitalization that not only includes affordable housing; but also, training centers to train/retrain our residents to prepare them for high growth industry jobs. It will allow us to also create financial literacy and entrepreneurial centers for our families and youth; provide full-service support for small business growth; address blight and launch other social service programs that will ultimately improve the quality of life for neighborhood residents. Furthermore, we see this as an opportunity to address the “Mother” of crime: poverty, while increasing the ability of communities like North Hartford to transform into a thriving community where residents can work, live, and give back!

Thank you in advance for approving this Bill.